



SJ0048

LRB099 20973 MST 45944 r

1 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, It is with great humility that the Illinois
3 General Assembly has the opportunity to pay respect and tribute
4 to great individuals who have served our country; and

5 WHEREAS, Seven Witczak brothers served in the United States
6 Armed Forces; five served during World War II and two in the
7 Korean War; and

8 WHEREAS, The Witczak brothers are Joseph "Joker", Anthony
9 "Tony", John, Casimir Maurer, Francis "Boy", Thomas "Junior",
10 and Edward Sr.; and

11 WHEREAS, The Witczak brothers were lifelong residents of La
12 Salle County; they grew up during the Great Depression and knew
13 the meaning of honor and hard work; Anthony "Tony" Witczak, the
14 last surviving brother, began by delivering newspapers for the
15 News Tribune out of La Salle; during World War II, he drove
16 Higgins Boats in the Pacific Ocean despite having never driven
17 a car; and

18 WHEREAS, The Witczak brothers were separated up by branch,
19 job, and location throughout World War II but kept in close
20 contact through letters; they had numerous opportunities to
21 meet up when their missions allowed; Anthony Witczak recalls

1 this happening mostly at Pearl Harbor; and

2 WHEREAS, The story of the Witczak brothers is an
3 astonishing and humbling one of commitment to their country and
4 their family; most families that had multiple members overseas
5 bravely serving their country did not have them all return
6 safely to the United States as all of the Witczak brothers did;
7 therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL
9 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
10 CONCURRING HEREIN, that we designate Route 251 as it travels
11 from Tonica to Mendota as the "Witczak Brothers Memorial
12 Highway"; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That the Illinois Department of Transportation
14 is requested to erect at suitable locations, consistent with
15 State and federal regulations, appropriate plaques or signs
16 giving notice of the name "Witczak Brothers Memorial Highway";
17 and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
19 presented to the Secretary of the Illinois Department of
20 Transportation and the family of the Witczak brothers.